

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /096 W
-----001754 231805Z /53

P 231719Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5875
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSNAVEUR
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 05865

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG CY
SUBJECT: EGYPT SEVERS RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS; WITHDRAWS
- RECOGNITION FROM KYPRIANOU; CONSIDERS FURTHER
- PUNITIVE ACTIONS

REF: CAIRO 5778

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN/CYPRIOT TIES BROKEN; EGYPT NO LONGER
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RECOGNIZES KYPRIANOU'S LEGITIMACY. SADAT STRONGLY AT-
TACKS GREEK CYPRIOT PERFIDY, HINTING AT COLLUSION BETWEEN
GOC AND SIBAI'S ASSASSINS. EGYPTIAN TROOPS ATTACKED
WHEN IT CLEAR GOC PREPARED AGAIN RELEASE KILLERS.
EDITORIALS FOLLOW SADAT'S LEAD, STRONGLY CRITICIZING GOC
AND KYPRIANOU THE "RED-HANDED ACCOMPLICE." END SUMMARY.

1. SEVERING RELATIONS. ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI INFORMED CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR FEB 22 OF SADAT DECISION SEVER RELATIONS, CLOSING DOWN CYPRIOT EMBASSY AND TECHNICAL OFFICES IN CAIRO AND CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA. ADDITIONALLY, GHALI TOLD AMBASSADOR SADAT HAS "WITHDRAWN RECOGNITION" OF SPYROS KYPRIANOU AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS AND SAID EGYPT CONSIDERING FURTHER (UNSPECIFIED) PUNITIVE MEASURES. AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF TOLD TO LEAVE EGYPT "AT ONCE." (COMMENT: SADAT'S DECISION APPEARS OVERRULE EARLIER EFFORT BY BOUTROS GHALI TO MAINTAIN SOME LINKS WITH CYPRUS. AS IN OTHER RECENT DIPLOMATIC MOVES, GHALI OUT OF STEP WITH HIS LEADER.)

2. SADAT'S ADDRESS. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED SADAT'S ADDRESS TO COMMANDOS AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS FUNERAL FOR THOSE KILLED AT LARNACA AIRPORT. IN SPEECH, PRESIDENT VOICED EXTREME BITTERNESS OVER CYPRIOT ACTION WHICH, HE NOTED, OCCURRED DESPITE MANY YEARS OF EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR GREEK CYPRIOT CAUSE. SADAT POINTED OUT MAKARIOS HAD BEEN WELCOMED IN EGYPT AFTER HIS OUSTER BY GREEK JUNTA; EGYPT'S ASSISTANCE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT OVER YEARS EXCEEDED THAT OF MAINLAND GREECE. CONCLUDED EVEN IF CYPRUS HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF COMMANDOS' ARRIVAL, WHAT HAPPENED SHOULD NOT HAVE TRANSPIRED. (INTER ALIA, SADAT NOTED THAT CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN CONTACTED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TOLD THAT EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT CARRYING "OUR SONS" WAS ON ITS WAY TO HELP GOC CONFRONT TERRORISTS.)

3. SADAT STRESSED GREEK CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES FAILED PREVENT SIBAI'S ASSASSINATION AND PRESIDENT "WONDERED" WHETHER THERE COLLUSION. HE TERMED KYPRIANOU'S ASSAULT ON EGYPTIAN TROOPS "A TREACHEROUS CRIME" AND DECLARED HE WILL NOT MEET GREEK CYPRIOT LEADER. CYPRUS SHOULD GIVE SIBAI'S KILLERS TO EGYPT AND EXPLAIN "TREACHERY COMMITTED AGAINST MY SONS." FINALLY, SADAT MAINTAINED COMMANDOS WENT INTO ACTION ONLY AFTER LEARNING CYPRIOTS WERE PREPARING PASSPORTS TO ENABLE ASSASSINS DEPART CYPRUS FOR SECOND TIME.

4. SHUKRI. FOLLOWING SPEECH SADAT TOLD BRIG. SHUKRI, COMMANDER OF TROOPS INVOLVED AT LARNACA, THAT DECISION ATTACK AIRCRAFT CORRECT. PRESIDENT SAID HE, PERSONALLY, ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION AND SHUKRI "FULLY CARRIED OUT (HIS) DUTIES." IN RECOGNITION OF COMMANDOS' "HEROIC ROLE", SHUKRI PROMOTED TO MAJOR GENERAL.

5. SUIT. AHAM, ON FRONT PAGE, ANNOUNCED IT WILL SUE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT FOR EXTREME NEGLIGENCE IN FACILITATING SIBAI'S ASSASSINATION. PAPER SAID SIBAI'S FAMILY WILL FILE SIMILAR SUIT. (COMMENT: UNCLEAR IN WHICH COURT OF LAW AHAM WILL SEEK ACTION.)

6. UNDER HEADLINE "WHY THIS FUSILADE IN CYPRUS?", AHAM'S EDITORIAL WRITER PICKED UP SADAT'S FUNERAL ORATION. NOTED EGYPT HAS STOOD BY CYPRUS THROUGHOUT ITS TROUBLES; SUPPORTED MAKARIOS DURING COUP; DEFENDED ISLAND'S UNITY FOLLOWING TURKISH INVASION. HENCE, EGYPT'S SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT TREACHEROUS ATTACK ON COMMANDOS. NO ARGUMENT, MAINTAINED AHAM, COULD JUSTIFY THIS ASSAULT. ONLY CONCLUSION PAPER ABLE REACH IS THAT GOC OFFICIALS

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"INVOLVED IN COLLUSION OR BLINDED BY BRIBES."

7. KYPRIANOU. AKHBAR'S MAIN EDITORIAL ATTACKED KYPRIANOU DIRECTLY, ACCUSING HIM OF EFFORT COVER UP HIS CRIME. DISMISSED GOC ARGUMENT THAT ASSASSINS SHOULD BE TRIED IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 05865

CYPRUS, NOTING GOC'S EARLIER UNSEEMLY HASTE SPIRIT
TERRORISTS OFF ISLAND. AT TIME COMMANDO ASSAULT, KYP-
RIANOU AGAIN WAS PLANNING HELP CRIMINALS ESCAPE. KYP-
RIANOU TERMED "RED-HANDED ACCOMPLICE" AND EGYPT FULLY
JUSTIFIED IN WITHDRAWING RECOGNITION FROM COUNTRY WHICH
HAS BECOME "HUB OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM."

8. COMMENT: DIRECTOR MFA LEGAL DEPT TOLD POLCONS THAT
HE AND BOUTROS GHALI (ALSO A LAWYER) HAD SEARCHED IN
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VAIN FOR PRECEDENT AND MEANING OF WITHDRAWAL OF RECOG-
NITION FROM FOREIGN CHIEF OF STATE; THEREFORE, DECIDED
SEVERENCE OF RELATIONS LOGICAL CONCLUSION. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, EG, CY
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